

REFERENCE TITLE: **foster parents; training**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
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HB 2581

Introduced by
Representatives Gabaldón, Andrade, Benally, Espinoza, Fernandez, Gonzales,
Saldate, Velasquez: Alston, Friese, Kopec, Rios

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 8-503 AND 8-509, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO
FOSTER PARENTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Section 8-503, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 8-503. Powers and duties

5 A. The division shall:

6 1. Exercise supervision over all child welfare agencies.

7 2. Advise and cooperate with the governing boards of all child welfare
8 agencies.

9 3. Assist the staffs of all child welfare agencies by giving advice on
10 progressive methods and procedures of child care and improvement of services.

11 4. Establish rules, regulations, and standards for:

12 (a) Licensing of child welfare agencies.

13 (b) Licensing of foster homes.

14 (c) Classifications of foster homes as:

15 (i) Receiving foster homes.

16 (ii) Regular foster homes.

17 (iii) Special classes of foster homes as are needed according to the
18 types of problems involved.

19 (iv) Group foster homes.

20 (d) Certifying each foster home according to one or more of the
21 categories prescribed in subdivision (c) of this paragraph.

22 (e) Initial and ongoing foster parent training programs.

23 (f) The method of approving foster parent training programs.

24 (g) Uniform amounts of payment for all foster homes according to
25 certification. However, variations in uniform amounts of payments may be
26 allowed for foster homes based on consideration of geographical location or
27 age or mental or physical condition of a foster child.

28 (h) Renewal of licenses of child welfare agencies and foster homes.

29 (i) Form and content of investigations, reports and studies concerning
30 disposition of children and foster home placement.

31 5. Establish a program of counseling and rehabilitation of parents
32 whose children have been placed in foster homes.

33 6. Establish foster parent training programs or contract with other
34 agencies, institutions or groups for the provision of ~~such~~ TRAINING programs
35 to foster parents. THIS TRAINING SHALL INCLUDE A MANDATORY WORKSHOP ON
36 CULTURAL HYGIENE. Foster parent training programs shall be established in at
37 least the following areas:

38 (a) Initial and ongoing training as a foster parent for a regular or
39 group foster home.

40 (b) Initial and ongoing training as a foster parent for a special
41 foster home.

42 7. Regulate the importation and exportation of children.

43 8. In conjunction with the department of education and the department
44 of juvenile corrections, develop and implement a uniform budget format to be
45 submitted by licensed child welfare agencies. The budget format shall be

1 developed in such a manner that, at a minimum, residential and educational
2 instructional costs are separate and distinct budgetary items.

3 9. ~~Beginning October 1, 1983,~~ Establish as a goal that, at any given
4 time, not more than fifty ~~per cent~~ PERCENT of the total number of children
5 whose maintenance is subsidized by title IV, part E of the social security
6 act, as amended, shall be in foster care in excess of twenty-four consecutive
7 months. The division shall establish through regulations appropriate
8 procedures to achieve the goal.

9 B. Except as provided in section 8-514.01, large group settings for
10 children, group homes for children and child developmental foster homes ~~which~~
11 ~~THAT~~ have one or more residents who are clients of the department with
12 developmental disabilities shall be licensed pursuant to title 36, chapter
13 5.1, article 3. Rules, regulations and standards adopted pursuant to
14 subsection A, paragraph 4 of this section shall not apply to group homes for
15 children or child developmental foster homes licensed pursuant to title 36,
16 chapter 5.1, article 3.

17 Sec. 2. Section 8-509, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:
18 8-509. Licensing of foster homes; renewal of license;
19 provisional license; exemption from licensure;
20 immunization requirements

21 A. The division shall license and certify foster homes. Licenses are
22 valid for a period of two years.

23 B. The division shall not issue a license without satisfactory proof
24 that the foster parent or parents have completed ~~six~~ EIGHT actual hours of
25 approved initial foster parent training as set forth in section 8-503 and
26 that each foster parent and each other adult member of the household has a
27 valid fingerprint clearance card issued pursuant to section 41-1758.07. The
28 foster parent and each other adult member of the household must certify on
29 forms that are provided by the division and that are notarized whether the
30 foster parent or other adult member of the household is awaiting trial on or
31 has ever been convicted of any of the criminal offenses listed in section
32 41-1758.07, subsections B and C in this state or similar offenses in another
33 state or jurisdiction.

34 C. The division shall not renew a license without satisfactory proof
35 that the foster parent or parents have completed ~~six~~ EIGHT actual hours of
36 approved ongoing foster parent training per year as set forth in section
37 8-503.

38 D. Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections B and C of this
39 section, if the division determines a condition of hardship to the foster
40 parent or parents, the division may issue a provisional license for a period
41 not to exceed six months. A provisional license may not be renewed.

42 E. Child welfare agencies that submit foster homes for licensing shall
43 conduct an investigation of the foster home pursuant to licensing rules of
44 the division. The division shall conduct investigations of all other foster
45 homes. If the foster home meets all requirements set by the division, the

1 agency shall submit an application stating the foster home's qualifications
2 to the division. The agency may also recommend the types of licensing and
3 certification to be granted to the foster home.

4 F. The division shall accept an adoptive home certification study as a
5 licensing home study if the study has been updated within the past three
6 months to include the information necessary to determine whether the home
7 meets foster care licensing standards.

8 G. This section does not apply if the child is placed in a home by a
9 means other than by court order and if the home does not receive compensation
10 from this state or any political subdivision of this state.

11 H. The division ~~does~~ MAY not prohibit a person operating a licensed
12 foster home from applying for or receiving compensation as a foster home
13 parent due to employment with this state.

14 I. The division shall not require a foster parent to immunize the
15 foster parent's natural or adoptive children as a condition of foster home
16 licensure.

17 J. A licensee may modify the renewal date of a license issued pursuant
18 to this section by submitting an application for modification of renewal date
19 with the division on a form prescribed by the division. The licensee must
20 specify the new month of renewal on the application. The modified renewal
21 date must be ~~prior to~~ BEFORE, but not more than six months earlier than, the
22 existing renewal date.